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BRIERFIELD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.  
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A N N U A L   R E P O R T .

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

for the

YEAR ENDED 31st December, 1964.

and

Incorporating the Report of the

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR.

A. BARLOW, M.B., Ch.B.  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.



Public Health Department,  
Town Hall,  
BRIERFIELD,  
Lancashire.

June, 1965.

TO:- The Chairman and Members of the Brierfield Urban  
District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting for your consideration,  
the following report on the Health, Sanitary Conditions  
and Public Health Administration in the Urban District of  
Brierfield for the year ended 31st December, 1964.

It includes various matters which have affected Public  
Health during the year. All records and statistics are  
being preserved so that the annual records may, so far as  
practicable be continuous and complete.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

A. BARLOW.

Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Department,  
Town Hall,  
BIRMINGHAM,  
January 1905.

Dear Sir,

I am in receipt of your letter of the 14th inst. regarding the  
Municipal Council.

Yours faithfully,

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I am, Sir, very truly,  
Your obedient servant,

A. BARNES.

Medical Officer of Health.



STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

The number of inhabited houses at the end of 1964 according to the Rate Book was 2778, the rateable value being £179,557 and the sum represented by a penny rate is £713. 0. 0.

The social conditions were generally quite good. There is full employment, the main industry being cotton. The manufacture of bottle tops is also carried on.

VITAL STATISTICS.

POPULATION. The population as estimated by the Registrar General for mid 1964 is 7,280.

BIRTHS. 110 Live Births belonging to the District occurred during 1964, 53 Males, 57 females. Of these 10, 5 male and 5 female were illegitimate.

One stillbirth was recorded (legitimate)

Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 live and stillbirths 9.0  
Total Live and Stillbirths. 111.

Comparative particulars with regard to live births over the last five years are given in the following tables:-

	<u>1964.</u>	<u>1963.</u>	<u>1962.</u>	<u>1961.</u>	<u>1960.</u>
Total Live Births.	111	114	102	116	90
Crude Birth Rate per 1000 estimated Popn.	15.1	15.6	14.3	16.7	13.3
Adjusted Rate.	16.8	17.3	15.7	18.3	14.6

The Illegitimate Live Births represent 9.1% of the total live births.

INFANTILE MORTALITY.

a)	All infants per 1000 live births.	18.2
b)	Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births.	20.0
c)	Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate births.	Nil.

NEO-NATAL MORTALITY.

a)	Deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age	2
b)	Mortality Rate per 1000 live births	18.2

EARLY NEO-NATAL MORTALITY.

Rate per 1000 live births.	18.2
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PERINATAL MORTALITY.

Rate per 1000 total births.	27.0
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Infant mortality over the last five years are given in the following tables:-

<u>1964.</u>	<u>1963.</u>	<u>1962.</u>	<u>1961.</u>	<u>1960.</u>
18.2	17.7	19.6	77.6	33.3



MATERNAL  
MORTALITY.

- |  |      |
|--|------|
| a) Deaths from Pregnancy, Childbirth and Abortion.     | 1    |
| b) Mortality Rate per 1,000 total live and Stillbirths | 9.01 |

DEATHS.

112 Deaths belonging to the District occurred during 1964 as follows:-

	<u>Males.</u>	<u>Females.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Deaths within the Urban District	29	38	67
Deaths outside the Urban District in Hospitals, Institutions etc.	20	25	45
	<u>49</u>	<u>63</u>	<u>112</u>

Comparative particulars with regard to deaths over the last five years are given in the following tables:-

	<u>1964.</u>	<u>1963.</u>	<u>1962.</u>	<u>1961.</u>	<u>1960.</u>
Total Deaths	112	82	77	109	121
Crude death rate per 1000 estmd. population.	15.4	11.3	10.8	15.7	17.9
Adjusted Rate.	15.7	11.5	10.5	15.2	17.3

The following table gives the ages at which deaths occurred, also the causes of all deaths belonging to Brierfield during 1964.





Causes of Death at different periods of Life during 1964.

Cause of death.	Sex	Total	Under	4 wks			Ages in Years.							
		all Ages.	4 wks.	& Under 1 yr.	1 -	5 -	15-	25-	35-	45-	55-	65-	75 over	
Tuberculosis, Respiratory	M F	1 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	M F	1 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	M F	1 3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	M F	1 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, Uterus.	M F	1 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms.	M F	3 12	-	-	-	-	-	-	1 1	-	3	4	1 2	-
Leukemia, Aleukemia	M F	1 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
Diabetes.	M F	1 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System.	M F	1 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	4	6	4
Coronary Disease, Angina.	M F	11 12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	2	3	3
Hypertension with Heart Disease.	M F	9 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Heart Disease.	M F	1 -	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1
Other Circulatory Disease.	M F	6 3	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	1	2
Pneumonia.	M F	4 1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Bronchitis.	M F	2 3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	1	1

(continued)

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## TUBERCULOSIS.

One death from Tuberculosis was recorded during the year. Four cases were reported, one female aged 67 and 3 males aged 16, 28, and 60. Four cases were removed from the register as recovered.

### CASES ON THE REGISTER AT THE 31st DECEMBER, 1964.

On the Register at the end of December, 1964, there were 20 cases of Tuberculosis (15 Pulmonary and 5 Non-Pulmonary) as follows:-

	5- 15	15- 25	25- 35	35- 45	45- 55	55- 65	Over 65	TOTAL.
Pulmonary								
Tuberculosis	-	3	2	7	-	2	1	15
Non-Pulmonary								
Cervical Glands	1	-	1	-	-	1	-	3
Perianal	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
Renal Tract	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
	1	3	3	7	1	3	2	20

As all these cases are dealt with by the County Tuberculosis Officer, no direct information is available about the number of cases receiving allowances.

## VENEREAL DISEASE.

The nearest Clinic is at Burnley and any cases discovered are advised to attend this Clinic.

## ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN.

There are no special workers in this area, but the Burnley and District House of Help does good work in this direction.

## LABORATORY WORK.

This work is carried out at the Public Health Laboratory, Meadow Street, Preston, as and when necessary.

The Lancashire County Council provides and maintains the following:-

AMBULANCE SERVICE. The Urban District is serviced by ambulances and sitting cars.

CHILD WELFARE SERVICE. The Infant Welfare Centre for the Urban District is held weekly under the supervision of Nurse Bush, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.

MIDWIFERY SERVICE. There is one District Midwife assigned to Brierfield who resides within the District.



SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS.

Per 1,000 Estimated Population.

	<u>Crude Live Birth Rate.</u>	<u>Crude Death Rate.</u>
Mean of 5 years 1959-1963.	15.3	13.3
Year 1963.	15.6	11.3
Year 1964.	15.1	15.4
Increase or decrease in 1964 on 5 years average 1959-1963.	- 0.2	+ 2.1
Change on Previous Year.	- 0.5	+ 4.1

<u>MATERNAL MORTALITY RATE.</u>		<u>DEATH RATE.</u>
<u>per 1000</u>	<u>Per 1000</u>	<u>of Infants</u>
<u>Live Births.</u>	<u>Live and</u>	<u>under 1 yr.</u>
	<u>Stillbirths</u>	<u>per 1000</u>
		<u>Live Births.</u>

Mean of 5 years 1959-1963.	Nil	Nil	31.4
Year 1963.	Nil	Nil	17.7
Year 1964.	9.01	9.08	18.2
Increase or decrease in 1964 on 5 years average 1959-1963.	+9.01	+9.18	-13.2
Previous Year	+9.01	+9.18	+ 0.5

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (OTHER THAN TUBERCULOSIS).

All cases kept at home. No deaths.

DISEASE.	TOTAL CASES.	-1	1/3	3/5	5/10	10/15	25/65
Influenzal							
Pneumonia	2	-	-	-	-	-	2
Measles	33	2	7	9	15	-	-
Scarlet Fever	2	-	-	-	2	-	-
Whooping Cough	3	1	1	-	1	-	-
	40	3	8	9	18	-	2





SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

BRIERFIELD URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

PUBLIC HEALTH, CLEANSING AND SEWAGE COMMITTEE:-  
Chairman, Councillor Woodhead, Vice-Chairman, Councillor Clegg,  
Councillors Mrs. Rawlinson, Edmondson, Greenwood, Hardacre, Twist,  
Woolstencroft, Nolan, Kabrna, McKeand.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.

Medical Officer of Health. Dr. Arthur Barlow.M.B.Ch.B.

Public Health Inspector. Ernest Wrigley,C.S.I.B.,M.S.P.H.I.  
(January/February) M.R.I.P.H.H.  
Certificate of the R.S.H. and  
S.I.E.J.B. Certificate R.S.H. for  
Inspector of Meat and Other Foods.  
Certificate of the Royal Institute  
of Public Health and Hygiene.

(March/December) John S. Haworth.  
Certificate of R.S.H. and S.I.E.J.B.  
R.S.H. Certificate for Inspection of  
Meat and Other Foods,  
Smoke Inspector,  
Sanitary Science etc.

Duties:- All matters coming within the purview  
of a Public Health Inspector including  
supervision of refuse collection.  
Appointed as Officer under the Offices,  
Shops and Railway Premises Act. Appointed  
as an Officer under the Shops Act by the  
County Council.

WATER SUPPLY. Brierfield is supplied with a constant supply of  
water from the mains of the North Calder Water  
Board and there were no new sources of supply during  
the year. The water is of good quality and in good  
supply. All dwellinghouses within the District,  
except one, are supplied direct from public mains.  
The one exception, which is supplied by spring water,  
is an isolated farm dwelling and is a considerable  
distance from the nearest public main.

SUPPLIES TO HOUSES. The number of houses supplied direct from  
public mains is 2760.

WATER SAMPLING.

Public Mains. Number of Bacteriological examinations 12  
Results:- All satisfactory.

SWIMMING BATHS. There are no Swimming Baths or Pools within  
the District.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL. The sewage is carried by gravity feed to the  
Disposal Works at the lowest part of the District.  
Treatment is by means of screens, detritus tanks,  
sedimentation tanks, rotary filters and humus tanks.  
The effluent from the works is discharged into  
Pendle Water.



# CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

Number of Privy Middens. Nil.

Number of Pail Closets. There are six only at isolated dwellings and these are emptied weekly by Council employees.

Number of Fresh Water Closets. 2261

Number of Waste Water Closets. 708

## Conversions during the Year.

Number of Pail Closets to fresh water closets	Nil
Number of waste water closets to fresh water closets.	76
Number of houses on the water carriage system.	2756

## Chief Sanitary requirement of the District.

Continued action on the conversion of waste water closets. Improvement of the many old dwelling houses which require hot water, baths and other amenities. A Smoke Control Policy.

PUBLIC CLEANSING. This is carried out by direct labour with a Shelvoke and Drewry 16/18 cu.yd. Fore and Aft Tipper equipped with a power press. Domestic refuse and refuse from shops, factories etc., is collected weekly and disposed of at the Burnley Tip by arrangement with the County Borough Council.

Number of Moveable Ashbins. 3035.

SALVAGE. Collection of salvage has continued during the year although the tonnage disposed of is like that of the previous year considerably down on former years. The following amounts of materials were salvaged during the year. Scrap metal is not included as most of the scrap sold had been obtained from Council properties and the revenue, therefore, credited to the Housing Fund.

<u>Weights.</u>	<u>Materials.</u>	<u>Amount realised.</u>
T. c. q.		£. s. d.
70. 18. 0	Waste Paper.	567. 1. 8
12. 2	Rags and String.	7. 17. 11
<u>71. 10. 2</u>		<u>574. 19. 7</u>

Figures for the five previous years are as follows:-

<u>Year.</u>	<u>Weight.</u>	<u>Revenue.</u>
	T. c. q.	£. s. d.
1959	133. 1. 0	1000. 15. 6
1960	131. 2. 3	1085. 15. 1
1961	148. 18. 0	1186. 18. 11
1962	122. 7. 9	961. 10. 7
1963	77. 1. 3	601. 0. 6

## SANITARY INSPECTIONS DURING 1963. (Including Housing).

Number of Complaints received	244
Number of Premises visited	1893
Number of Visits made	3051
Number of defects or nuisances discovered	583
Number of Defects remedied	460
Number of Notices served (Statutory)	21
(Informal)	169





DISINFESTATION. Fourteen dwellings were treated during the year against cockroaches. Vermicine spray and D.D.T. Powder with Pyrethrine were used.

CAMPING SITES AND MOVEABLE DWELLINGS. There are no caravans or sites licensed under the Public Health Act, 1936, and no licenses have been applied for under the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951. Two shops were licensed under this Act. The premises are maintained in a clean and satisfactory condition.

### H O U S I N G .

CONDITION. Most of the houses are stone built in terraces and about 80% of them are owner occupied. The majority are well maintained but there are some falling slowly into a state of disrepair. Amenities in these older houses are lacking. The more recently built brick houses include detached bungalows, and semi detached houses.

BACK TO BACK HOUSES. There are 16 such houses, mainly owner/occupied, well maintained and in very good condition.

NEW BUILDINGS. During the year twenty one houses were completed by private enterprise.

OVER-CROWDING. No new cases were reported during the year. A survey was undertaken of all dwellings occupied by Pakistanis.

#### INSPECTION OF DWELLINGHOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

1. a) Total number of dwellinghouses inspected formally or informally for housing defects under the Public Health of Housing Acts. 98
- b) Number of inspections, formal or informal, made. 207
- c) Number of houses found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation, but capable of being rendered fit. 61
2. Total number of dwellings existing at end of year which were unfit for human habitation and not capable at reasonable expense of being rendered fit and in respect of which
  - a) Demolition, Clearance and Closing Orders have been made (at any time) 3
  - b) Demolition, Clearance or Closing Orders have not yet been made. 1

#### REPAIRS DURING THE YEAR.

- a) Unfit houses rendered fit and houses in which defects were remedied during the year as a result of informal action by the Local Authority under the Housing or Public Health Acts. 42
- b) Public Health Act- action after service of formal notice, houses in which defects were remedied,
  - (i) By Owners 5
  - (ii) By Local Authority in default of owners Nil
- c) Housing Act, 1957 - action after service of formal notice (Sections 9 and 16) houses made fit,
  - (i) By Owners Nil
  - (ii) By Local Authority in default of owners. Nil.



HOUSE PURCHASE AND HOUSING ACT, 1959 - Standard Grants.

Action during the year.	Number of Schemes.	Number of dwellings or other buildings affected.
a) Submitted to Local Authority.	62	62
b) Approved by Local Authority.	62	62
c) Work completed.	58	58

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY.

The number of Distributors remains the same as in previous years.

a) Dairies in the District.	5
b) Premises outside the District.	7
c) Shops in the District other than Dairies.	35

The Lancashire County Council is the Food and Drugs Authority and thus responsible for the issue of Licences.

MILK SAMPLING.

During the year 31 samples of milk were obtained, 8 of which were Raw Milk (Tuberculin Tested), 10, Pasteurised and 3 Sterilised. These samples were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory for bacteriological examination with the following results:-

Type of Test.	No. of Samples.	Results.
Tuberculosis	17	17 negative
Brucellosis-Ring Test.	17	10 negative, 7 positive.
-Culture Test.	4	1 no result, 1 negative, 2 positive
-Biological Test.	17	1 no result, 12 negative, 4 positive.
Methylene Blue	18	11 satisfactory, 6 unsatisfactory, 1 void
Phosphatase	20	1 unsatisfactory. 1 void.
Turbidity	3	satisfactory.

The samples reported as positive Brucella Abortus were produced outside the District and referred to the Local Authority concerned.

ICE CREAM SAMPLES. Seven samples of Ice Cream were obtained during the year and submitted to the Public Health Laboratory. Five samples were Grade I and the remaining two Grade II. One dealer operating from a vehicle not in accordance with the Food and Drugs Act was warned.

SLAUGHTERHOUSE FACILITIES. There are no public or private slaughterhouses in operation within the District.

FOOD PREMISES. The number of Food Premises in the District at the end of 1964 was as follows:-





<u>Type of Business.</u>	<u>Number.</u>
General Grocers	32
Greengrocers and Fruiterers (Including wet fish)	6
Butchers and Cooked Meats	14
Bakers and Confectioners	10
Fried Fish Shops	6
Sugar Confectionery, Ice Cream, Minerals etc.	16
Licensed Hotels.	10
Snack Bars etc.	18

Regular visits were paid during the year. Special visits were made in connection with a poster campaign re dogs and smoking.

Premises registered under Section 16 of the  
Food and Drugs Act, 1955 or under Local Acts.

<u>Type of Business.</u>	<u>No. Registered.</u>	<u>No. of inspections of registered premises during the year.</u>
Butchers and Meat Products.	14	74
Bakers and Confectioners.	8	36
Grocers and Mixed.	16	66
Sweets and Soft Drinks	15	75

FACTORIES ACT, 1961.

Particulars of inspections made under this Act are given on Page 12 of this report.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

Number of Factory chimneys in the District.	5
Observations taken during the year	23
Smoke nuisances discovered.	Nil.

No action has yet been taken under the Clean Air Act. A Survey is planned for 1965.

RODENT CONTROL.

Test baiting was carried out in the first half of the year and in the second Full treatment given by a Servicing Firm (Rentokil). From the number of rats found on the surface and on the screens at the sewage works this appears to have been very successful.

The following properties were treated:-

<u>Dwelling houses.</u>	<u>Other non agricultural properties including Local Authority Property and business premises.</u>	<u>Agricultural Premises.</u>
46	18	18



PREScribed PARTICULARS ON THE ADMINISTRATION  
OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1961.

PART I OF THE ACT.

1. INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspector).

Premises.	Number on Register.	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices.	Occupiers Prosecuted.
(i) Factories in which Secs.1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Auth.	3	7	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sec.7 is enforced by Local Authority.	5	48	4	-
(iii) Other premises in which Sec.7 is enforced by Local Auth.(excluding out-worker's premises)	4	9	-	-
TOTAL.	52	64	5	-

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found. (If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more cases.)

Particulars.	Number of Cases in which defects were found.				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.
	Found	Remedied.	To H.M. Inspector.	By H.M. Inspector.	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1.)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2.)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable Temp.(S.3.)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4.)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6.)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences.(S.7.)	-	-	-	-	-
a)Insufficient	-	-	-	-	-
b)Unsuitable or defective.	10	6	-	-	-
c)Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-Workers.	-	-	-	-	-
	10	6	-	-	-



PART VIII OF THE ACT.

O U T W O R K .

(Sections 110 and 111)

Section 110.			Section 111.		
Number of out-workers in August list required by Section 110 (1) (c)	Number of cases of default in sending lists to the Council.	Number of prosecutions for failure to supply lists.	Number of instances of work in unwholesome premises.	Notices Served.	Prosecutions
Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.

COMMENT.

The year has seen many changes. A new Public Health Inspector took over in March, a new driver was engaged on the refuse vehicle in May, and the department lost direct control of the road sweeping vehicle after the end of March.

In September a significant change took place with regard to rodent control when the firm of Rentokil Ltd. was engaged to deal with infestations of rats and mice in the Council's properties and in private dwellings. 24 complaints of infestation were received in the four months the scheme was in operation. This firm also undertook the sewer treatment. Some 200 manholes were baited in October and from the number of dead rats found on the screens at the sewage works and the number found elsewhere on the surface it must be assumed that the treatment was very successful.

An attempt was made to find a substitute for the traditional galvanised dustbin and although only a few householders could be persuaded to convert to the paper bag system, a start has been made. There are many advantages to be gained from the use of paper sacks but the significant one is the time saved in collection. The frequent changes in the team of refuse collectors together with an ever-increasing amount of trade refuse and a considerable rise in the number of special collections have placed a strain on a service that was already working to capacity. It became increasingly difficult to recover after holiday periods and an additional vehicle had to be hired on several occasions. The Department is very grateful to the Burnley Rural District Council for the loan of a vehicle and driver.

The bulk of the refuse collected is tipped in Burnley by arrangement with the County Borough Cleansing Department but occasional loads were tipped on the old tip near the sewage works.

This proved most unsatisfactory and instructions have been given that the tip must not be used again. A few loads have been tipped elsewhere in the district and although this has been of great help at times when the Burnley tip was closed it is very obvious that proper sanitary tipping cannot be done without the requisite cover, staff and vehicles.





There has been much unauthorised tipping and dumping. In particular the old tip behind the gas works continues to be used as a dumping ground for all kinds of rubbish. Old beds and such articles have been found in dozens of places and in many instances the person responsible has obviously gone to considerable trouble to find what was assumed to be a convenient spot. It would have been easier in the first place to request the office to move the unwanted article and certainly much less trouble for the Department.

It can perhaps be looked on as a sign of the times that many motor vehicles have been abandoned in various places in the town. Action was taken during the year. The Police were most helpful in providing the names and addresses of the last recorded owners and after notices had been served a number of vehicles were removed. Some remain however and since this is a problem affecting all Local Authorities one can only hope that something can be done to deal with this problem.

Complaints continued to come in of noise from one of the Local factories. The factory is on the edge of the canal and the affected area on low lying ground on the other side of the water. The Company was most co-operative and on the advice of H.M. Inspector of Factories sought assistance from the University of Manchester. Alterations were made and a considerable improvement effected.

Inspectors must of necessity concern themselves with statistics, but obviously if a shop is inspected under the Food and Drugs Act, an inspection is made at the same time under the Shops Act, and a check is made on the presence of rodents. If the shop were a grocer's, probably ice cream was sold, and probably milk as well. All these matters must be noted and checked and it means that 5 "visits" can be recorded though but one shop is affected.

It takes but a moment to observe that a bin at a Council owned house requires replacing. It might take half an hour to make an observation on the tip, but each represents a figure of 1 in a report. Totals of visits paid, therefore, have no particular significance. They are not necessarily indicative of the amount of work done.

HOUSING. Many of the older houses lack bathrooms or even a hot water supply. There are still many waste water closets. There are many in need of repair but the high cost of such repairs and the shortage of labour is resulting in a gradual deterioration of both owner occupied and rented properties.

It is distressing to have to pass by houses with defective eaves gutters etc. that must obviously be damp and which obviously can only get worse, without being able to do anything. If the adjoining property were affected the remedy would be available but ~~who~~ responsibility has the Council for the property and health of the owner/occupier when the owner/occupier claims he cannot afford to carry out any repairs.

There is a number of houses in the town that have remained empty, some for months, some for longer periods. Twenty years ago they could have been requisitioned and brought into use. Now their gradual deterioration indicates loss of rate revenue and a wasting national asset. They affect adjoining properties by reducing their potential value, and affect the inhabitants of the area in a subtle way that eventually undermines their pride and their health.

What can the local authority do? The deterioration of empty properties can be measured but the effect on the neighbours although certain is insidious.



What responsibility does the Council bear for these intangibles?

The co-operation given to the Health Department by the Surveyor, other members of the Council's staff and the Engineer to the Water Board is here gratefully recorded.

J. S. HAWORTH.

Public Health Inspector.







